

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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SMALLER TURKEY CROP EXPECTED THIS YEAR

Turkey growers plan to reduce turkey production in 1947 by 16 percent the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. This will be the second successive reduction since the peak production year of 1945. If growers carry out their intentions the number of turkeys raised this year will be about $34\frac{1}{2}$ million, compared with 41 million in 1946. The 1947 crop would be 23 percent smaller than the record crop of 45 million in 1945. The 1939-43 average number was about $33\frac{1}{2}$ million turkeys.

Turkey growers in the West, where about a fourth of the 1946 crop was raised, plan a decrease of 26 percent this year. A decrease of 16 percent is expected in the West North Central States, the largest producing area in the United States with 31 percent of the Nation's turkeys. In the South Atlantic States growers plan a decrease of about 12 percent. Growers in East North Central and the North Atlantic States expect a 10 percent decrease from the 1946 crop. The smallest decrease planned this year is 7 percent in the South Central States. Growers in Texas and Oklahoma plan a decrease of only 5 percent, which partially offsets much heavier decreases in other States in this area.

Numbers actually raised usually vary from January 1 intentions, the difference depending on prices of feed, hatching eggs and poults, and on the sale of turkeys remaining in growers' hands. Last year the number of turkeys raised was about 4 percent less than January 1 intentions because of an uncertain feed situation during the hatching season. In 1945 producers raised 14 percent more birds than they intended because of the increase in turkey prices during the hatching season and the shortage of red meats. In 1944 producers raised 8 percent more turkeys than they intended on January 1. In earlier years of record the intention indications exceeded actual numbers raised -- in 1943 by 12 percent, in 1942 by 8 percent, in 1941 by less than 1 percent, in 1939 and 1940 by 2 percent, and in 1938 by 3 percent.

Reasons given by turkey growers on January 1 as to why they intend to decrease their 1947 turkey crop below that of 1946 all indicate that their 1946 net returns were cut severely by higher feed prices than in 1945 with little change in turkey prices. Feed prices averaged 20 percent higher in 1946. Growers generally expect high feed costs in 1947 and a decline in the demand for turkey meat with accompanying lower turkey prices. Other reasons mentioned were the high cost of labor, loss caused by predatory animals, and the unusual spread between hens and toms as influencing them to cut production in 1947.

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INTENTIONS TO RAISE TURKEYS IN 1947

State and Division:	Turkeys raised					Intended in 1947 Number : % 1946
	Average	1944	1945	Indicated:		
	1939-43			1946 1/		
	Thousands		Thousands			Percent
Me.	47	43	52	44	37	85
N.H.	62	71	92	75	71	95
Vt.	145	159	207	186	167	90
Mass.	230	227	272	250	225	90
R.I.	23	30	35	31	29	95
Conn.	106	146	185	163	139	85
N.Y.	405	428	586	492	458	93
N.J.	141	192	259	280	252	90
Pa.	220	1,285	1,670	1,586	1,427	90
N.Atl.	2,072	2,581	3,358	3,107	2,805	90.3
Ohio	857	979	1,155	1,097	954	87
Ind.	411	612	1,010	1,081	865	80
Ill.	600	828	1,118	1,230	1,193	97
Mich.	490	638	1,002	932	885	95
Wis.	472	692	761	731	643	88
E.N.Cent.	2,837	3,742	5,046	5,071	4,540	89.5
Minn.	3,061	3,341	4,176	4,092	3,478	85
Iowa	1,771	2,147	2,576	2,731	2,185	80
Mo.	1,462	1,532	1,838	1,746	1,310	75
N.Dak.	1,347	992	1,042	1,146	1,031	90
S.Dak.	1,089	413	487	472	401	85
Nebr.	1,139	1,208	1,546	1,469	1,396	95
Kans.	1,151	210	1,112	251	808	85
W.N.Cent.	11,021	10,543	12,784	12,607	10,609	84.2
Del.	111	107	123	117	99	85
Md.	398	400	460	437	371	85
Va.	843	986	1,232	1,232	1,047	85
W.Va.	233	254	330	320	314	98
N.C.	242	277	360	396	380	96
S.C.	172	307	460	437	350	80
Ga.	128	168	202	212	201	95
Fla.	116	118	142	156	148	95
S.Atl.	2,242	2,617	3,302	3,307	2,910	88.0
Ky.	293	267	299	254	216	85
Tenn.	198	190	200	210	172	82
Ala.	147	144	151	159	127	80
Miss.	126	111	113	96	86	90
Ark.	126	132	152	137	103	75
La.	69	69	69	62	62	100
Okla.	1,328	954	1,145	1,202	1,142	95
Tex.	3,254	3,761	4,701	4,466	4,243	95
S.Cent.	6,241	5,628	6,830	6,586	6,151	93.4
Mont.	268	253	253	273	254	93
Idaho	243	272	340	255	255	100
Wyo.	193	167	199	169	169	100
Colo.	919	861	947	814	676	83
N.Mex.	58	52	60	66	56	85
Ariz.	75	93	107	91	100	110
Utah	1,028	1,743	2,039	1,590	1,034	65
Nev.	40	40	51	42	34	80
Wash.	980	1,387	1,637	1,310	1,048	80
Oreg.	1,819	2,084	2,876	2,013	1,389	69
Calif.	3,368	4,260	5,155	3,712	2,598	70
West.	8,991	11,212	13,664	10,335	7,613	73.7
U. S.	33,410	36,330	44,291	41,013	34,628	84.4

1/ Preliminary estimates as of August 1, 1946.